

**Psychology of Touch**

By Melissa Vliet

Stormy skies  
In modern times  
A kiss, a hug  
A gentle good bye  
A touch, a mug  
To say hi  
A whisper to the day  
Night will be far away  
A crying baby, a toddler mild  
A mother panicked, a fatherless child  
Angel wings on my back  
To what I may say  
More pressure to my baby

To heal, to hurt  
To feel, to burn  
To stop, to go  
From above, to down below  
The rain and the pain  
My heart is healing again  
My children, my teachers  
My classmates, oh so much  
To love and loss  
To hold and lose  
So much more  
To have hope and move  
To hold to the dying day  
To love when not away

To hold from birth  
To the grave  
A love, a touch  
To the day  
A careful touch  
A healing hold  
A rubbing tummy  
A reassurance to my child  
A nightmare banished  
A love, compassion, healing touch  
To know that you're needed much

To be through birth  
And death. To be there  
In the beginning to the end  
A love without end. Amen

**Mitigation Among the Sybarites**

By anonymous

We were late and how it happened  
We could even see them:  
Outside, four boys from where,  
Guadalajara, Jalisco, Cornelius?  
Leaning against a chain link fence  
Keep them out of left field –  
Inside, fourteen thousand  
Stretching to touch foul or fly.  
We paid for six general admissions,  
Then turned, walked back.  
Handed each a ticket:  
Here, happy Fourth of July.  
By the time Terrmal Sledge cleared  
Leather over the wall  
In the bottom of the fourth,  
We, who had just come from  
Fried chicken, fudge brownies,  
Handpicked golden raspberries  
(Ours a long history of self-serving),  
Stumbled over another way to score.  
How many celebrations are there  
We can crack open a wallet  
Until it sings O'er the land of the free  
In plain, hands-on English,  
Without demanding allegiance?

**Flower from Paloma**

By Leo Rhodes

Times are hard  
Times are tough  
My life is very chaotic  
Seems like it's getting stressful by the hour.

I was talking to your mother  
I stopped a couple of times to say, "Hi."  
When you, Paloma, noticed my distress  
You quickly looked into your stroller  
Then your little bag  
Your mom and I where watching you  
You fished around  
Then with a big smile  
You pulled your little arm out of the bag  
Facing me you smiled real big  
And said, "Here."  
In your little hand was a small flower

Surprised I looked at your mother  
She stood there with a big approving smile  
I leaned over to make eye contact  
Looking for words to say  
All I could muster was "Thank you"

Waving to you and your mom as you were leaving  
All I kept thinking was how someone so small so young  
Made me feel all was right with the world

**PUZZLES**

By Cole Merkel

Answers on page 6

**Crossword**

**Across**

- 1. Java-slingers
- 9. Underbred mongrels
- 14. Most suspicious
- 15. Surroundings
- 16. Take notes
- 17. Catch
- 18. Element 10
- 19. Handyman
- 21. Crow's cry
- 22. Clandestinely married
- 24. 1996 Olympic torch lighter
- 25. Whiner
- 27. Let off steam
- 29. Hard times
- 30. Peace Corps cousin
- 31. Chromosome part
- 34. "Nature" essayist; NE Portland sidestreet
- 36. Starts
- 37. Enter by force
- 39. Low, fast throws
- 40. Lives in harmony
- 43. Snitch
- 44. Cloth weave
- 45. Matterhorn, e.g.
- 47. Tropical, fruit-bearing evergreen
- 49. Informal greeting
- 50. Makes amends
- 51. A dissertation, perhaps
- 54. Mouse, for one
- 55. Most frightening
- 56. Clothe
- 57. Recklessness

**Down**

- 1. Sauvignon
- 2. Lover of Dido, in myth
- 3. Wide acclaim

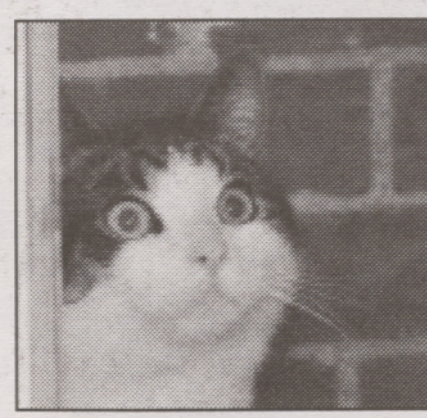
- 4. Caddie's offering
- 5. Dog command
- 6. Oolong, for one
- 7. Horoscope helper
- 8. Tea ball
- 9. Subcompact
- 10. Beyond the legal power of a person, corporation or agent
- 11. Indefatigable
- 12. Attack
- 13. Dines
- 15. Honey drink

- 20. Continual steadfastness
- 22. Contents of Pandora's box
- 23. Building block
- 26. Rocks for commerical extraction
- 28. "The Joy Luck Club" author
- 30. Having to do with Sanskrit religious texts
- 31. Jump
- 32. User
- 33. Big-footed bird
- 35. Skirt for the modest
- 38. Highest ranking
- 41. Chiang Kai-shek's capital
- 42. Most deceitful
- 44. Clenched fingers
- 46. Shindig
- 47. Reddish-brown gem
- 48. Animal shelters
- 49. It'll grow on you
- 52. Beaver's work
- 53. Before: Prefix

**Sudoku**

			6					
2							4	8
	8				9	1		7
	9		4					
4			3			9		
		7						
						6		5
		5		1	8	7	3	
	7				5	8		

The objective of Sudoku is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers, from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.



Office Cat Rooty says  
thank you to all our  
volunteers who work so  
hard to keep us moving  
forward. You're the best!  
Thank you!